

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3895

To amend title V of the Housing Act of 1949 to provide rural housing assistance to families affected by Hurricane Katrina.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

Mr. BAKER (for himself, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. JINDAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To amend title V of the Housing Act of 1949 to provide rural housing assistance to families affected by Hurricane Katrina.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Housing Hurri-
5 cane Relief Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. DISASTER AUTHORITY.**

7 Section 541 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C.
8 1490q) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 541. DISASTER ASSISTANCE.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
3 vision of this title, in the event of a disaster declared by
4 the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
5 and Emergency Assistance Act, the Secretary may, during
6 the period described in subsection (c), exercise any author-
7 ity described in subsection (b) with respect to the counties
8 designated as disaster areas and the counties contiguous
9 to such counties and for any individuals who resided in
10 such counties at the time of the disaster.

11 “(b) SPECIAL AUTHORITIES.—The authorities de-
12 scribed in this subsection are as follows:

13 “(1) CONVERSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—
14 The Secretary may convert rental assistance under
15 section 521 allocated for a property that is not in-
16 habitable because of the disaster into—

17 “(A) housing voucher assistance authorized
18 under section 8(o) of the United States Hous-
19 ing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)); or

20 “(B) rural housing vouchers authorized
21 under this title.

22 “(2) REPROGRAMMING.—The Secretary may re-
23 program funds appropriated to carry out any activi-
24 ties authorized under this title to conduct any other
25 activity authorized under this title.

1 “(3) WAIVER OF RURAL AREA REQUIRE-
 2 MENTS.—The Secretary may waive the application
 3 of the provisions of section 520 with respect to as-
 4 sistance provided under this section, as the Sec-
 5 retary considers appropriate.

6 “(c) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—The period de-
 7 scribed in this subsection is, for a major disaster, the 6-
 8 month period that begins on the date that the disaster
 9 is declared by the President.

10 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In ad-
 11 dition to funds otherwise available to carry out this sec-
 12 tion, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums
 13 as may be necessary to carry out this section.”.

14 **SEC. 3. RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER AUTHORITY.**

15 Section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C.
 16 1490r) is amended—

- 17 (1) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”;
- 18 (2) in the first sentence, by striking “very”;
- 19 and
- 20 (3) by striking subsection (b).

21 **SEC. 4. GUARANTEED LOANS FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOUS-**
 22 **ING.**

23 Section 502(h) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42
 24 U.S.C. 1472(h)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “or construct”
2 and inserting “, construct, repair, or rehabilitate”;
3 and

4 (2) in paragraph (14)(A), by striking “made
5 under this section or guaranteed under this sub-
6 section” and inserting “used to acquire or construct
7 a single-family residence that meets the require-
8 ments of subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of para-
9 graph (4)”.

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